

Devotion, Week of January 18, 2026
Rev. Jeanne Simpson

Elora and Cilliam Truex are being baptized this coming Sunday. It's been a while since we've baptized infants at Philadelphia, and it fills me with joy and hope. We welcome children into the church, knowing that we are as responsible as the parents for raising them in the faith. When they are older, they will go through a process of dedicated study in reformed theology, church history, and Christian living. They will write their own statements of faith and present them to the Session. They will then be presented to the church to publicly profess their faith, reaffirm the baptismal vows made on their behalf as children, and commit to being active church members. We call this process Confirmation, when after a period of study, these children will make a personal acceptance of the faith their parents professed for them.

Elizabeth and David Truex will dedicate these children not only to God, but to our congregation, as their family of God. That makes us "God" parents, in a way. We state that we will help Elizabeth and David in raising their children in the faith, and we should take that task seriously. Just as Elizabeth and David trust us to love and cherish Elora and Cilliam, so we covenant to trust in God to guide us in nurturing the faith of these little ones. The children are dedicated to God and we are dedicated to their care. That is what families do in the beloved community.

So come join us, with lunch afterwards in the fellowship hall to celebrate this wonderful event.

Jeanne